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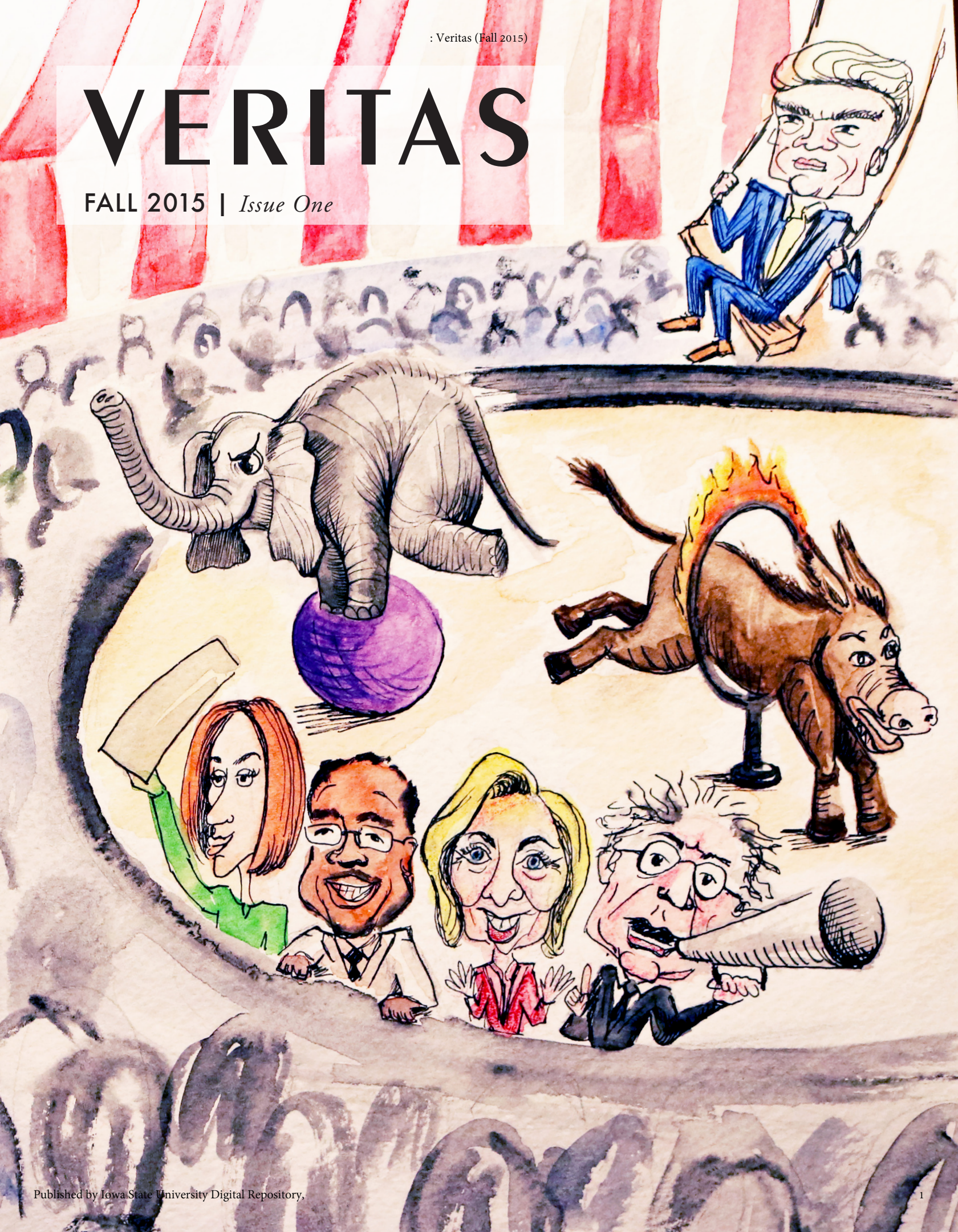
Veritas (2015) "Veritas (Fall 2015)," *Veritas*: Vol. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/veritas/vol1/iss1/1>

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VERITAS

FALL 2015 | *Issue One*



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The Hugh S. Sidey Scholarship is made possible through the generosity of Mr. David M. Rubenstein and the White House Historical Association.



VERITAS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Lissandra Villa

DESIGN Maddy Baker

EDITORS Meghan Johnson
Alex Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHY Jessica Darland

ADVERTISING & PUBLIC RELATIONS Kara Rex
Audra Kincart

TREASURER Abhijit Patwa

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to our adviser, Dennis Chamberlin, whose guidance made this publication possible. Thanks also to the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication, whose support was greatly appreciated.

Funded by the Iowa State Student Government.

VERITAS:

founded in truth

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Letter from the EDITOR



Photo by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics

Greetings,

My name is Lissandra Villa, and I am the editor-in-chief and one of the founders of Veritas magazine. Our first edition has been in the works for a while, and we are grateful to you for taking the time to pick up our small but mighty magazine.

Veritas is Latin for truth, and it is what we strive for at our publication. We felt it was necessary to start this publication and make it our mission to inform the Iowa State community by addressing issues in ways other mediums cannot.

For this edition, because of the upcoming Iowa caucuses, we chose to have a heavy focus on the presidential election. The caucuses take place on Monday, Feb. 1, so we felt it was important to get as much relevant information out there as we could.

Here in Iowa we have a front row seat to the show. And yes- at times it is a show. There are flashing lights and rhetoric that the electorate must be able to sift through to get to the heart of the matter.

Moving forward, our goal will be to continue to educate the public and engage our readers to the world around them. We thank you for your support now and in the future.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lissandra Villa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.



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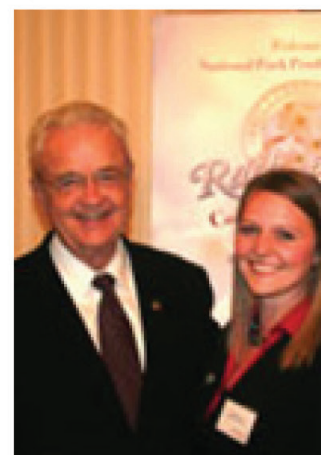
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OUTSIDER POLITICIANS

steal the show this time

By: Alex Hanson

Call it the year of outsider candidates.

First it was Donald Trump's summer full of shenanigans that filled the news; then it was Carly Fiorina's breakout performance in the first Republican debate; and now voters look on as candidates who defy their party's establishment sit atop the polls heading into February's Iowa caucus.

And it's happening on both sides.

Republicans have chosen Trump as their top choice in almost every poll since the first Republican debate in August. On the Democratic side, the once-strong frontrunner Hillary Clinton's lead continues to dwindle as a self-described democratic-socialist inches closer, coming within single digits in Iowa polls.

"There's a concern that politicians are just not getting the job done," said Tim Hagle, a University of Iowa political science professor who keeps close tabs on the presidential race in Iowa and beyond.

"We've had divided government at the federal level, and that tends to keep things from getting done."

Hagle said in both parties, voters are fed up with politics and those who have been made a career out of it.

REPUBLICAN OUTSIDERS

TRUMP

Trump, the business and real estate mogul who often touts a \$10 billion net worth – although a Bloomberg News analysis disputes that number and says it's closer to \$3 billion – is not afraid to cause controversy.

There were his comments about illegal immigrants at his announcement speech in New York, referring to some as "criminals," "drug dealers" and "rapists."

He caused an uproar on stage at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames when he questioned the war record of U.S. Sen. John McCain. Trump said he likes veterans who weren't captured during war.

He gave out former fellow Republican presidential candidate Lindsey Graham's cell phone number at an event in South Carolina this summer.

He tweets insults daily at other candidates and celebrities.

He's had an ongoing feud with FOX News anchor Megyn Kelly following the first debate.

The list goes on.

But while he may be a controversial figure that dominated the news



*“Plus he’s an entertainer. People love to be entertained,”
Schmidt said.*

for months, his poll numbers showed that the voters like something about him. A week before he announced his candidacy, a FOX News poll showed him with support from just 5 percent of national voters.

A month after his campaign launch, his numbers had more than doubled according to another FOX News poll – now he was sitting at 11 percent support.

Jump forward another month, and he had support from 24 percent of voters nationally – now in first place, according to a poll from ABC News and The Washington Post.

“Trump comes across as brash, and he is seen as a bulldog – he does attack issues and people head on,” said Mack Shelley, chair of Iowa State’s political science department. “He’s not shy, and I think there’s a persona in the general public where people like that kind of behavior.”

His numbers soared after he announced he would run for president. At his peak in late August and early September, several national polls conducted by CNN/ORC, ABC News/Washington Post and Monmouth University showed Trump with 30 percent support from likely Republican voters – way ahead of any competition.

“Every single day the news media says he’s peaked, but so far, he’s held up because he’s so disrespectful of political correctness – but a lot of people think and wish they could say what he’s saying,” said Steffen Schmidt, an Iowa State political science professor. “He’s kind of reflecting that particular frustration people have.”

“Plus he’s an entertainer. People love to be entertained,” he said.

FIORINA

The two other real “outsiders” may not match Trump’s outspoken style, but they’ve caught the attention of voters.

Fiorina struggled early on. She barely registered in most polls until mid-August after the first Republican debate where she stood with the other lower-tier candidates.

Her performance was widely regarded as a breakout moment, and she would go on to “graduate” to the primetime debate in September, although recently she has moved back to the JV debates.

“I’ve liked her for awhile,” said Krista Klocke, an Iowa State senior in speech communication. “When I listen to her, I see that she commands respect, and she is respectable. She is somebody who to me strikes me as being very truthful and very principled.”

Besides serving as an adviser to 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain and an unsuccessful run for a U.S. Senate seat from California in 2008, Fiorina’s had no experience in politics – only private sector experience in business.

“It’s that outsider appeal, but the appeal she has to a certain extent is business experience,” Hagle said.

Fiorina was the first woman to serve as CEO of a Fortune 100 company when she took over at Hewlett-Packard in 1999. After overseeing a merger with Compaq, Fiorina laid off roughly 30,000 employees – a figure that opponents have used to attack her.

In 2005, the HP board of directors forced Fiorina out of her role as HP.

“I don’t think it hurts her at all,” Klocke said.

She added she thinks that Fiorina did the best under the circumstances presented and that her time at HP makes her stronger.

“I don’t get the impression that Trump was in that CEO role like Fiorina,” Hagle said.

“She hasn’t always been successful, and she gets some criticism on how she handled HP, but I think she’s learned for that. Plus, she’s already run a political campaign before; granted it was unsuccessful for senate in California.”

Fiorina has had some run-ins with Trump, and it showed up center-stage at the second Republican debate on Sept. 16, when Trump refused to apologize, but was forced to walk back comments he made in a Rolling Stone magazine interview.

“Look at that face! Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?” Trump said in the interview.

Fiorina may have gotten the biggest applause of the night at the debate, when she responded to a question, saying, “I think women all over this country heard very clearly what Mr. Trump said.”

After a loud applause from the debate crowd, Trump responded, saying, “I think she’s got a beautiful face, and I think she’s a beautiful woman.”

But Fiorina did not acknowledge Trump while they were side-by-side on television.

“I think she is a very polished and effective communicator,” Klocke said. “She has a commanding presence, and even though she is a woman in petite, she is able to command the respect of everyone else in the room, and I really admire that.”

“It’s that outsider appeal, but the appeal she has to a certain extent is business experience,” Hagle said.



The others don't have a brand, and that explains it, Schmidt said.

CARSON

Then there's Carson – who is just about the opposite when it comes to public speaking when compared to Trump and Fiorina. His soft-spoken style sticks out when he's on stage with other Republicans.

But just because he's soft-spoken doesn't mean he's not making an impact and being heard. After a speech in February of 2013, he became a darling among Tea Party Republicans for his staunch opposition to things like the Affordable Care Act and being open about his faith.

"Carson has a real different persona," Shelley said. "He's not a CEO, but a retired neurosurgeon, and he actually has some intellectual firepower that the other two don't have. Carson sort of exudes intellect and the ability to get something done."

Carson often uses stories from his career as a neurosurgeon while on the campaign trail.

"You've got three unusual people who are all pretty aggressive and all have a brand," Schmidt said. "The others don't have a brand, and that explains it. Yes, people are ticked off at politicians, and that certainly helps these three that they're not politicians."

OTHER REPUBLICANS

But don't forget about the other candidates. There are at least 12 other big name Republicans running, and while the others have held elected office at some point, some run as if they're outsiders.

Take Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul for example – a first term senator who came to Washington in the 2010 Republican wave. Instead of campaigning on his libertarian-leaning record in Congress, he often talks about being a doctor in his home state.

He's also made a point to try to reach out a broader base of support among Republican candidates. While he may not have much legislation to show for it, Paul has sponsored bills on criminal justice reform with Democrats, stood 10 hours to filibuster a CIA nomination over the use of drones, and later stood 13 hours to filibuster a renewal of the PATRIOT Act.

On the campaign trail, he touts a less aggressive foreign policy, scaling back drug sentences and reaching out to minority communities.

Austin Dzik, an Iowa State junior studying mechanical engineering, heads the "Students for Rand" group at ISU – one of more than 300 student wings of Paul's campaign on college campuses across the country.

“He’s someone who definitely went along with my core values,” Dzik said. “He stands up for personal liberty, and that’s a huge thing for me.”

Dzik, who came to Iowa State from Chicago, said he thought of himself as a conservative Republican in high school but said his views are more in line with libertarians once he got a new perspective in college.

And Paul isn’t the only Washington senator trying to appeal as an outsider. Ted Cruz often takes jabs at what he calls the “Washington cartel” while on the campaign trail and runs a campaign highlighting what he says proves he’ll take on D.C.

Governors are doing it also. Gov. Mike Huckabee also campaigns on changing Washington and how it has become disconnected from Americans.

DEMOCRATIC OUTSIDERS

While Republican voters rally around several outsiders, it is also happening on the Democratic side with Bernie Sanders.

The definition of an outsider may have to change when it comes to Sanders, who has been a politician for more than 30 years – he was the mayor of Burlington, Vt., in the 1980’s and in congress since 1991.

Rosie Cook, an ISU freshman studying business, leads the “Cyclones for Bernie” group at ISU. As of mid-October, she said the group had already lobbied more than 250 students to caucus for Sanders. And she fits right in with the Vermont senator, describing herself as a “democratic-socialist.”

“I think he’s proposing drastic changes that really should have happened a long time ago,” she said.

Cook said Sanders’ plan on reigning in Wall Street and his economic policy are ideas that really stand out among the Democratic field.

Sanders stands out in the smaller field of Democrats, calling for free college tuition at public universities, a single-payer Medicare-for-all healthcare system and other ideas that end up to the left of frontrunner Clinton and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

“In Bernie’s case, his appeal is a combination of things,” Hagle said. “First, as an outsider candidate, and as a democratic-socialist, he’s been bucking the establishment for awhile.”

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As the outsiders take up time from those who were supposed to be leading in the nominating contest at this point, Iowa political experts agreed that the more conventional candidates were likely to take over the lead as voters decide governing experience is important.

But it’s not a guarantee; so far the 2016 election cycle has been unpredictable.

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American political culture has long been a man's world.

By: Christie Smith

After centuries of women being kept, for the most part, out of participating in politics, U.S. news publications heralded 1992 the “Year of the Woman” after a historic number of women were elected to the U.S. Senate. There were only four of them.

In more recent history, there were more than 100 women in Congress for the first time ever in 2014, according to the Congressional Research Service. Of the 535 representatives, nearly 20 percent were women.

Now America is facing the 2016 election and the possibility that a woman could hold its highest office.

“It’s helpful to recognize the importance and the historic nature of having two viable female candidates running,” said Kelly Winfrey, an assistant professor in the Greenlee School of Journalism and Mass Communication who researches gender in politics.

Clinton and Fiorina’s candidacies have called for scrutiny and analyses not solely on the candidates themselves—their educations, their careers, their plans for the country—but also on the basis of their gender.

Logan Maxwell, sophomore in history, interns and volunteers for the Fiorina campaign headquarters in Des Moines. He said that he believes Fiorina is overcoming the gender bias and challenging the status quo.

“She’s not running on the fact that she’s a woman, but that she’s the one who’s going to help change the country,” Maxwell said.

Zach Rodgers, junior in political science and a member of the student group Cyclones for Hillary, said, “When women are trying to get something done, they’re told they’re shouting.”

Both Clinton and Fiorina have been accused of playing the so-called gender card in their campaigns. Clinton has capitalized on the premise that “women’s rights are human’s rights,” a term she coined at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Fiorina has taken an approach in her campaign that “women are not a special interest group,” as she stated in the second GOP debate on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

According to Winfrey, either approach can be valuable.

“I don’t think a candidate should ignore the fact that they are different than what other candidates have been,” Winfrey said.

Winfrey said research has shown that women often participate politically in different ways than their male counterparts. They are often more cooperative, bipartisan and concerned with a broader range of issues, like those that are relevant to people in need.

Chris Kelley, ISU alumnus, said Clinton’s willingness to help others is what makes her an excellent candidate for president.

“My biggest reason to rally behind her is her passion for equality not only in America, but worldwide,” Kelley said. “She is and will continue to be an excellent champion for minorities across the board.”

Audrey Scagnelli, Carly for America press secretary, said that she has gotten emails from parents who say that they’re thankful to have someone like Fiorina for their daughters to look up to.

“She’s a role model and an inspiration to young women,” Scagnelli said, citing Fiorina’s experiences as a breast cancer survivor and a mother.

Although magnifying the otherness of Clinton and Fiorina as female presidential candidates can be problematic, Winfrey said it is important to note their differences in a way that does not hinge on their pantsuits or their roles as grandmothers and wives.

“I feel that it’s time for a woman to be in the White House,” Rodgers said. “Many other developed countries have had women leaders, and we’re kind of behind the pack in that.”



Photos by: Jessica Darland

CLINTON

Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in Park Ridge, Illinois. Clinton's father was a textile wholesaler, and her mother worked as a babysitter and housekeeper. Clinton was the oldest of three children in a conservative family, according to her campaign website.

Clinton attended Wellesley College where she was one of 27 women in her graduating class. Throughout her young adulthood, Clinton participated in Republican groups and campaigned for Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater.

In an interview with the MAKERS documentary series, Clinton said after an internship with Gerald Ford at the House Republican Conference, she decided she no longer identified with conservative ideologies.

Clinton attended Yale law school where she met her future husband Bill Clinton. She graduated in 1973 with honors.

During law school, she worked with democratic politicians and campaigned for presidential candidate, George McGovern. After law school, Clinton worked with the presidential impeachment inquiry staff on the Watergate Scandal involving President Richard Nixon.

Clinton then moved to Arkansas, where she taught at the University of Arkansas Law School.

Clinton married in 1975 and was appointed to the Board of Legal Services Corporation by President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

In 1993, Clinton became the First Lady of the United States, and in this capacity she focused on health care reform and drew attention to gender issues.

Clinton stood by her husband's side in the wake of his infidelity and the articles of impeachment brought against him in 1998. The president was acquitted in 1999, which the National First Ladies' Library credited to Clinton's public support of him.

Near the end of her role as first lady, Clinton won a U.S. Senate seat in New York, becoming the only first lady to hold public office.

In 2007, Clinton campaigned to become the Democratic nominee for president. Clinton lost the nomination to Barack Obama, who named her secretary of state when he became president.

Clinton was the third woman and the only first lady to be Secretary of State.

Clinton has been criticized for her role as secretary of state at the time of the 2012 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya.

She is also being investigated for using her personal email to send or receive classified information during her time as secretary of state.



FIORINA

Carly Fiorina was born in Austin, Texas. Her father was a judge and lawyer, and her mother was an artist. As a child, Fiorina's family moved often, and she attended school in Ghana and the United Kingdom, as well as several states in America, according to Britannica Encyclopedia.

Fiorina attended Stanford University, where she got a bachelor's degree in philosophy and medieval history. She was accepted to law school at the University of California in Los Angeles, but dropped out after one semester, according to Britannica.

She later received a master of business administration at the University of Maryland and a master's in science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

When she was 25, Fiorina began working at AT&T in an entry-level position. Here, she began the journey that she often describes on the campaign trail as "secretary to CEO."

According to her campaign website, within 15 years of her employment at AT&T, Fiorina was heading AT&T's spin-off, Lucent Technologies.

In 1999, Fiorina was named the CEO of Hewlett-Packard. She was the first outsider to head the company in more than 60 years, according to Britannica, and she was the first woman to head a Fortune 50 company, according to her campaign's website.

She had the idea to merge HP with Compaq Computer Corporation, an idea that Fiorina said was unpopular among HP executives, according to her website.

Despite the resistance to her idea, the second and third largest companies in America at the time were merged when Fiorina won a 1.4 percent majority of the votes of shareholders.

The merged company, which retained the name HP, was not as profitable as Fiorina had imagined, according to Britannica. In 2005, she was forced to resign as CEO.

In 2010, Fiorina underwent treatment for breast cancer and simultaneously announced a bid for U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer's seat, according to Fiorina's campaign website.

Fiorina produced an ad known notoriously as the "demon sheep ad," in which she criticized opponent Tom Campbell for being a "fiscal conservative in name only."

Despite mixed reactions to the ad, Fiorina secured her party's nomination but lost the election to Boxer.

During the 2010 election and Fiorina's fight against breast cancer, Fiorina's daughter also died.

Fiorina makes being a Washington outsider a pillar of her campaign.

What makes Gov. Branstad

TICK?

By: Varad Diwate

It all started in an eighth-grade classroom in Forest City.

The teacher asked students what they wanted to become when they grew up. Most of the students had common responses, like firemen and policemen.

One student, however, gave a response that is still remembered by others in the class.

"I want to become the governor of the state of Iowa!" said a young man.

The other students in class had a good laugh over this. Little did they know that the young man would become the longest-serving governor in U.S. history.

This event, as recalled by one of Gov. Terry Branstad's classmates, tells us a lot about the goal-driven governor, said author Mike Chapman, who has written a biography on Branstad titled "Iowa's Record Setting Governor."

For his research, Chapman talked to more than 40 people Branstad grew up and worked with, including his classmates, high-school coach and staffers.

"What I was interested in was how this young lad came in from a farm community of about 300 people and became the youngest governor in Iowa history," Chapman said.

Branstad, a native of Leland, Iowa, was first elected to the Iowa

House of Representatives in 1972. He made his first run for the state legislature when he was 26-years-old. He was then elected as lieutenant governor in 1978.

He served a record four-terms as governor from 1983 until 1999.

The next step in his career was a position as president of Des Moines University, a position he held for six years. He made a successful bid for the statehouse again in 2010 and is in his sixth-term as of 2014.

BACKGROUND

Chapman said Branstad played basketball and football in school. He became interested in politics when he was in school.

"Gov. Branstad's 8th grade teacher Lura Sewick taught US History in Forest City and she sparked his interest in government and public service. She also taught him to participate in the public process by voting and attending city council meetings to be informed," Ben Hammes, communications director for the governor, wrote in an email.

He worked throughout school and during his time at the University of Iowa.

He also managed a farm in his hometown while working as an attorney.

Branstad's mother was a staunch Democrat, Chapman said.

He once happened to read “The Conscience of a Conservative,” by Sen. Barry Goldwater, who was also a Republican presidential candidate in 1964.

Chapman said a key message from the book that influenced Branstad was, “Don’t spend money you don’t have.”

Thereafter, he described himself as a conservative Republican.

WHAT WORKS FOR HIM?

Chapman said a common observation he

heard from those around him was regarding the governor’s strong work ethic and drive to succeed.

“He is one of the most driven people I have met in my life,” Chapman said.

He added that those around him also see him as very sincere in his convictions and as a likable man.

“He’s just a really nice guy, kind of guy you want to go out and have a beer with,” Chapman said.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad gave brief remarks at the beginning of the Growth and Opportunity Party in Des Moines on Saturday, Oct. 31 before 10 presidential candidates took the stage.



Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad gave brief remarks at the beginning of the Growth and Opportunity Party in Des Moines on Saturday, Oct. 31 before 10 presidential candidates took the stage.

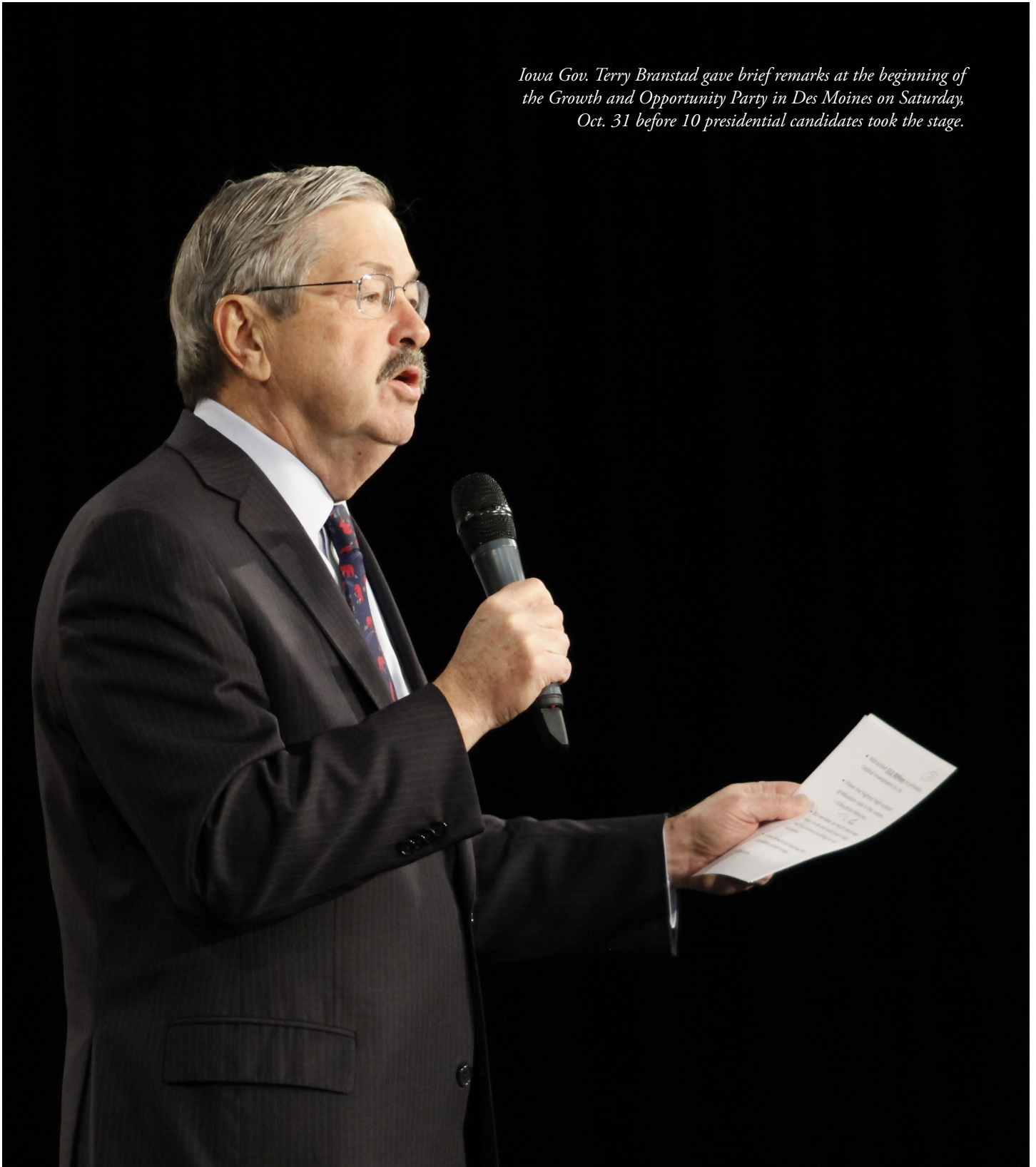


Photo by: Jessica Darland

For a state with a divided state legislature, Branstad has managed to get a majority of votes for several election cycles.

When it comes to the issues, Chapman said Branstad holds on to the issues that made him a conservative in the first place: fiscal and economic issues.

His state goals in the manifesto are mostly reducing government spending and increasing economic opportunity. As a devout Catholic, he tends to be socially conservative on issues like abortion and same-sex marriage.

Iowa currently has the state legislature controlled by Democrats and Republicans. This means that Branstad often goes for bipartisan legislation.

“In order for anything to come out of the legislature, it has to be bipartisan. And because it going to come out as a bipartisan bill, he has little incentive to veto....He is not going to win any points vetoing Democratic legislation that Republicans have supported,” said David Andersen, assistant professor of political science at Iowa State.

Even in the cases where he has vetoed legislation, Andersen said the legislation involved institutional tension between the governor and the legislature rather than partisanship.

“I think Gov. Branstad has been good at not being confrontational... Where there are conflicts, he compromises. I think that helps him remain popular,” Andersen said.

He added that Branstad has also been good at avoiding conflict, as he doesn't come across as someone unwilling to listen or to change positions on a partisan issue.

“Iowa tends to be a very pragmatic state...We have a long history of being a bipartisan state. So, you have to compromise, you have to get along. There's no value in getting into these ideological arguments,” Andersen said.

TENURE AT DES MOINES UNIVERSITY

After four terms as governor from 1983 to 1999, Branstad set his sights on the private sector.

Des Moines University hired the former governor as president in 2003.

Chapman said the appointment gathered some attention as some cited Branstad's inexperience in academia as a concern.

His appointment, however, brought name recognition and visibility to the university. This is something at least one member of the Board of Regents had thought about, Hammes said.

“Gov. Branstad is proud to say that during his time, DMU increased enrollment in all three of the colleges, increased the endowment from \$59 million to \$80 million, built the student education center which included the large wellness center, became the first college or university in the entire United States to reach the platinum recognition from the Wellness Council of America and became a completely tobacco free campus,” Hammes wrote.

He worked as president for more than six years until 2009.

PERSONALITY

Branstad does not come off as a real dynamic speaker, Chapman said.

However, he is very different in one-on-one meetings when he is an extremely good listener.

“He has an almost photographic memory. I would say something almost in passing and six months later, he could cite it back to me,” Chapman said.

Chapman said another aspect that sets Branstad apart is his willingness to change. For a while, Branstad was opposed to having a lottery in the state.

“In a lot of ways, he defines the Republican Party in Iowa. He is the most successful politician Iowa has ever seen...He is where the power resides,” Anderson said.

The practice of gambling was inconsistent with his personal beliefs, and he did not see much value. However, this changed, Chapman said, when polling data showed a majority of the people in Iowa were in support of having a state lottery.

“That’s not a flip-flop. That’s what intelligent people do. You are willing to look at the evidence and say, ‘Well, I am willing to revisit my opinion and change my opinion.’ He is willing to do that,” Chapman said.

Throughout the course of his career, Branstad has had experiences which have revealed aspects of his personality to those around him. Chapman mentioned one such experience as recalled by a staffer. Because the governor does not own an official airplane like the Air Force One, he often relies on private individuals to fly him wherever he needs to go.

During one such flight, the pilot realized that the landing wheels wouldn’t operate as they got close to landing. The nervous staffer who thought they were done for was holding the flight steering as the pilot was going through the flight manual. Meanwhile, the governor was sitting in the back reading over his notes. The pilot was eventually able to safely land the flight. After that, Branstad just walked away and gave a speech as if nothing had happened.

CRITICISM

Over the course of his political career, Branstad has also received criticism directed at his style of functioning. In July 2015, he vetoed a plan to offer mental health services at two locations in the state. He also vetoed one-time K-12 school funding worth more than \$55.7 million that was previously approved by the legislature.

“Iowans expect that their Governor will work with the legislature in order to solve problems and move Iowa forward. Instead, Governor Branstad has long governed with a my-way-or-the-highway, autocratic approach. Nowhere has this been more clear than in 2015, where Branstad has consistently circumvented the legislature in order to advance his backward agenda that is good for those at the top and bad for Iowa families,” wrote Josh Levitt, press secretary for the Iowa Democratic Party.

ELECTIONS AND INFLUENCE

Referring to the most recent gubernatorial election cycle, Andersen said the Democratic nominee, Jack Hatch, did not present a suitable opponent for Branstad.

“One of the contributing factors is that the Democratic Party doesn’t really have an heir apparent. If you are going to challenge the longest-serving governor in Iowa history, you can’t come out of nowhere. You have to have some name recognition in the state,” Andersen said.

“In a lot of ways, he defines the Republican Party in Iowa. He is the most successful politician Iowa has ever seen...He is where the power resides.”

Sometime this power extends itself beyond state border in a state like Iowa during the presidential caucus season.

For example, Anderson said New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie’s friendship with Branstad is not just a result of their similar personalities. Branstad’s friendship could help Christie in the presidential caucus.

MILLENNIALS:

The Unspoken Generation

By: Meghan Johnson

Millennials are the newest generation to enter the realm of political participation, at the age range of 18-34. But whether millennials engage in this realm is the question.

Millennials, born from the early 1980s to the early 2000s, make up almost one quarter of the U.S. population at 83.1 million, according to the U.S. Census. Millennials outnumber the 75.4 million baby boomers in the United States, according the census. Because of this, millennials have the opportunity to have real influence on issues, if they so choose.

According to the Harvard Institute of Politics (IOP) Survey, millennial involvement in politics, specifically voting, peaked in

2008 and has since declined. The survey, an ongoing project at the IOP since 2000, has determined factor of this increase and decrease of political involvement throughout the years. The IOP determined that Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 terrorist attacks both proved to be crucial events that have had an effect on millennials because they happened during formative years.

According to the Pew Research Center (PWC), President Barack Obama won votes from 66 percent of millennial voters in the 2008 election, and the millennials who voted turned out in greater numbers than in past elections to support Obama. This could be because of many different aspects of the political sphere, but PWC showed research that Obama's campaign targeted millennials more

jobs women's affordable healthcare environment college tuition

“I think millennials care about the conditions close to their lives, which is jobs, affordable education, healthcare, and a declining environment, which they will inherit and which may make their lives so much more difficult and less enjoyable”

– *Steffen Schmidt*

rights gun control education economy

in 2008, thus millennials showed up to vote.

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) says that voter turnout is less likely for millennials in midterm elections compared to presidential elections. According to an estimate from CIRCLE, 21.5 percent of millennials voted in the 2014 midterm national election.

The IOP survey's finding of a drop in political involvement since 2008 doesn't mean that millennials don't care about political issues. The 2014 Reason-Rupe millennial survey found that 62 percent of millennials define themselves as socially liberal, while the majority define themselves as centrists on fiscal issues.

In the political world, Duverger's law shows that most people are drawn to the middle of political issues — not too liberal and not too conservative. Maurice Duverger, a French sociologist and politician, is a developed academic in politics and the evolution of political systems. According to the Reason-Rupe survey, most millennials tend to side democratically when voting, but a large percent went to the polls as independent, staying in the realms of Duverger's law.

So what issues matter to millennials? This could be answered in many different ways. The Reason-Rupe millennial survey had millennials, shown as a national figure, rate which issues they felt had the highest priority. Of a diverse list of issues, 28 percent of millennials mentioned economy

as a priority issue while only four percent believed social issues were a priority.

At Iowa State University, with a total of 211 political science majors in the fall of 2015, according to Iowa State's Office of the Registrar, a different suggestion is offered to the idea of what millennials care about. Herman Quirmbach, Iowa state senator from Ames, has served millennials at ISU as part of his constituency since 2003. He said that millennials are passionate about issues that directly affect them, such as college tuition, K-12 education and many other public policies.

"Religion plays a dramatically less important role in our lives, and we accordingly aren't held hostage by the unchanging opinions of religious leaders," said Elijah Decious via email, the treasurer for the ISU Political Science Club.

"We recognize the importance of equality in groups that past generations ignored, such as LGBT. Millennials don't seem to have as much of an attitude of American exceptionalism. We look at other countries without bias and see that they do things better than we do."

According to the Reason-Rupe Millennial survey, nine percent of those surveyed mentioned foreign policy and 11 percent mentioned equal rights.

"I think millennials care about the conditions close to their lives, which is jobs, affordable education, healthcare, and a declining environment, which they will

inherit and which may make their lives so much more difficult and less enjoyable," said Steffen Schmidt, an ISU political science professor.

He went on to say that millennials also care about personal safety, global issues and threats and fair treatment of sexual orientation, gender and race. Schmidt mentioned six out of the top 10 issues mentioned by millennials on the Reason-Rupe millennial report.

Erin Norton, an ISU political science student, said millennials care about education, women's rights, equal rights and the environment. Personally, she said she also cares about gun control from a more personal experience. Norton was born and raised in Aurora, Colorado. Shortly after midnight, at the showing of "The Dark Night Rises" at a Century Theater in the summer of 2012, a gunman opened fire into an unknowing audience.

This public shooting killed 12 and wounded 70, according to news reports. Norton's political stance was heavily influenced by this tragedy. Even though she wasn't present for the attack, the occurrence in her hometown left a lasting impact on her stance on gun control and its importance.

According to the Reason-Rupe report, only one percent of millennials mentioned gun control or gun violence as an important issue in the 2014 report.

In the same report, 18 percent of those surveyed chose not to declare which issues

were important to them or didn't know which issues were important to them. This percentage is equal to the amount of millennials that mentioned health care or the Affordable Care Act, the second most mentioned issue on the list.

As these professors, students and senator show, millennials have different views on many different issues. It is hard to depict what is most important, but social issues and economic issues do show a common thread at Iowa State.

This suggestion that millennials care about certain issues, but they don't care about politics begs the question: What went wrong? The question of why millennials don't show up to vote or to participate in politics, even though they care about the issues, could be answered by political delusion or confusion.

"I think they live in a time when there is information input overload, too much information on candidates and issues, which makes it very hard to sort through it all and make good [political] decisions," Schmidt said.

He added that millennials have not been active enough to get the attention of leaders and candidates as well as legislators.

When it comes to voting, campaigning and communication with legislators, millennials have thus far failed to do so, according to the Harvard IOP.

Quirnbach said that he represents his constituency and he represents what his constituents show him that they care about, and that the local level of politics is where people have the most influence.

"If young people want to have an effect on policy, they need to get involved on all levels of politics," Quirnbach said.

Issues are important to millennials. When this importance will show an effect on politics is the question that lies ahead.

When it comes to voting, campaigning and communication with legislators, millennials have thus far failed to do so, according to the Harvard IOP.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics

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Community Input:

HOW MUCH
DO YOU CARE
ABOUT POLITICS
AND WHY?

*For our first edition of **Veritas**, we wanted to hear what the Iowa State student body had to say about the way they see politics. We sent out an email and asked students how much they care about politics and why. Here are some of their responses.*



ELLIOT KLIMOWSKI

Graduate student in community and regional planning

I care about politics most of the time even though many aspects of the political climate do not apply to me directly. People need to care about all facets of the United States' political system since the way people around us are affected by political decisions can have dire impacts on our interpersonal relationships. This is how we take care of our own instead of selfishly looking out for our own interests. As Jane Jacobs once said, "people must take a modicum of public responsibility for each other even if they have no ties to each other." This is a lesson that cannot be taught but can be learned even beyond the formative years of one's life.

EMILY COWLES

Junior in public relations

I believe that I care about politics more than the average college student. I grew up in a family where politics were openly discussed and where family members ran and were elected into leadership positions in local and state government. It's hard to be a college student and keep up with politics, but I believe if someone is of age to vote they should be informed in their decisions. Tuition increases, social security, healthcare issues, national debt and unemployment rates: All of it will eventually be something we all need to be concerned about and aware of. By voting now for someone with the same views as mine, and whom I deem qualified, I can make a better future. I already registered in Iowa to be able to vote in the presidential election in 2016 and think all college students should.



How much do you care about politics and why?



GARRETT JANZEN

Graduate student in ecology, evolution and organismal biology

My mother has soap operas, my father has World War II documentaries and I have politics. Like my parents, I need to get my fix of intrigue, action, drama, unscrupulous villains, virtuous leaders, back-room betrayals, schadenfreude and comedic relief. Where my medium of choice differs from theirs is that mine carries with it the self-righteous, self-congratulatory image of being "socially-conscious" and "part of the world community." It's wonderful. I get to cheer on my favorite candidate in the debates, popcorn bucket in hand, counting the zingers and predicting the sound clips they'll play back in an hour while judging my friends who are on Netflix. I can laugh at Joe Biden's verbal and personal-boundary flubs, condemn Hillary Clinton's murky basement email servers (not that I understand what that means, but it sure doesn't sound good), and love-hate Donald Trump's vitriol and pomp, all with the warm fuzzies of "informed citizenry."



BEATRICE UPAH

Senior in elementary education

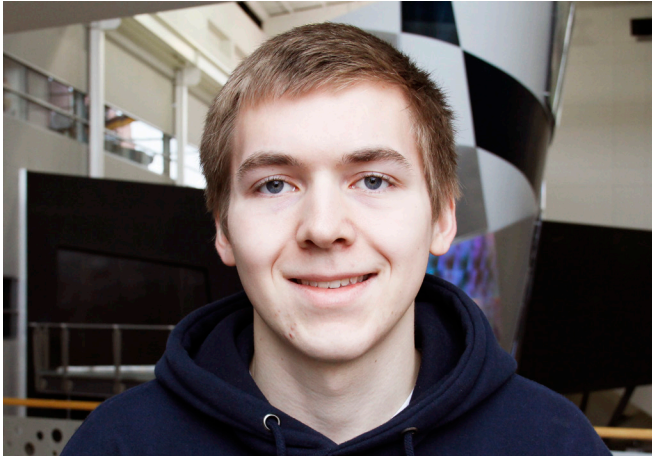
I will admit the presidential campaign process has me feeling a bit weary about politics. I will never say I don't care about it, however. If you say you don't care, you are essentially saying you have no opinion about the people who make the laws which have the potential to dictate your life. It means you have no opinion on issues such as abortion, gay rights or equal pay. It means you are willing to let other people who "care" make the decisions for you. I have never been OK with decisions being made for me, so I guess I would have to say politics are extremely important to me (and should be important to everyone else).



MICAH RAMBO

Senior in mechanical engineering

I don't.



TANNER JOHNSON

Freshman in forestry

Politics are very important to me because I believe that the world could be a better place. Politics, whether you agree with the system or not, determine our country's policies, initiatives and relations. My political free speech and my right to vote are some of the easiest ways that I can improve the future, and researching and making well-informed political decisions doesn't take nearly as long as one might expect. In my opinion, there's really no excuse not to participate, and if I don't, then I'm a part of the problem and have no right to complain about things. People can say that one vote is a mere drop in an ocean, but what is an ocean but a sea of drops?



NATHAN SCHARENBROCK

Graduate student in civil, construction and environmental engineering

Politics: One word that strikes many emotions. At the origin of American politics, it was full of pride for the creation of a revolutionary democracy that gave power to the people. Two hundred years later and politics is a topic that many avoid to not offend anyone. Politics today is filled with corruption, false promises, accusations, secrets and hidden agendas. What used to be a system that strived for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness has now become a chess match- a match where there are only two teams and for no reason will either team ever work together to solve the problems plaguing this nation. Or better yet, a game of monopoly where the rich can throw their money around to sway a candidate's stance or buy them the election. I care immensely because I care about the future of this nation, but I feel great dismay with politics today.



ALEC ALBRIGHT

Junior in civil engineering

I don't like saying "I don't care about politics" because that sounds blunt, but that is how I feel. To me, politics is something that so many people care so much about, when they really don't have as much influence on them as they think they do. The thing everyone DOES have complete influence on is how we choose to conduct ourselves each day and what we choose to accomplish. The American rights of voting and freedom of speech are wonderful because they give everyone a say in things, but to what extent? I think so much drama, fighting, arguing, degrading and blame comes with politics, and it makes politics almost silly in my mind. Our nation will operate based off of how each and every one of us lives and acts, not by the policies in which we state what we stand for. I do see why there is a need for politics and why there is a large interest surrounding them, I just think people spend too much energy taking things to the extreme.

LA TIN OS

*seek
understanding*

By: Anthony Bader

A line of people waiting to enter the Great Hall in the Iowa State Memorial Union wound up and down the hall and up the stairs around the building, where they waited to attend a September discussion on racism, diversity and inclusion.

There, a panel of members of the Latino activist group, Latinos Unidos for Change (LUCHA), recounted stories of every day, subtle and not-so-subtle, racism and aggression they said they endured mostly from white students. They told stories that included students asking them where they are really from, getting stared at while speaking Spanish in public or seeing Halloween costumes making a joke of some students' Mexican culture.

"I think most microaggressions stem out of ignorance," said Monica Diaz, a member of LUCHA, who said white students do not always have bad intentions when they do those things.

She explained further that most of the time people are well intentioned but that there is a disconnect between what they are trying to say and what they are saying.

Victor Aguilar-Lopez, president of the Latino Heritage Committee at ISU and a student from California, says he has had a similar experience to those on the panel with regard to trying to fit in at Iowa State University.

"It's as though I'm made to feel like I'm in a box, made to feel different. Coming to Iowa made me aware that I was brown," Aguilar-Lopez said.

After moving to a state with a mostly white population, he is now more conscious of his surroundings and worries at times about generally being accepted by other ISU students, Aguilar-Lopez said.

While instances of microaggressions and stereotyping happen on campus, it can be changed, said Jason Boyles, a senior in marketing.

"The best way to end racism is to meet someone from that nationality," Boyles said. "Once you meet someone who breaks your stereotypes, you can't think that way anymore."

Boyles also pointed out that at times, open discussions are hard to start because many people are scared it might turn into a heated and emotional argument.

Iowa State has taken action to attempt to ease the tension. As a result of a recent diversity audit conducted by The Jackson Consulting Firm, a new administrative position has been created: vice president of diversity and inclusion.

Reginald Stewart, formerly the chief diversity officer at the University of Nevada, Reno, was the person selected to fill the role.

It will take a collaborative effort to increase diversity and cultural awareness on campus, and people will have to step out of their comfort zones to make progress, Stewart said. He said he hopes he can give people the tools they need to succeed and help them start a conversation.

“The first thing you do is allow people to make mistakes,” Stewart said. “The goal is to get people to say, ‘I know this is unfamiliar, it’s OK not to know everything.’”

Stewart also points out that this problem is not isolated to Iowa State. Many universities and large companies are instituting officer positions related to diversity, as it is becoming increasingly essential to be more culturally aware in today’s society.

PERCEPTIONS AND PORTRAYALS OF LATINOS

These everyday errors committed by some white students discussed at the forum show that some Latinos feel there is a lack of understanding between the two groups. So, they aren’t grasping that some Latino students are feeling left out of the conversation when it comes to politics.

Part of the reason that contributes to some white Americans having a skewed perception of Latino issues is because of the way they are portrayed in the media.

Alejandro Pino, commissioner in Cedar Rapids for the Office of Latino Affairs of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, said that the media often has the wrong focus with regard to Latino issues.

“When you look at the news, it’s always immigration,” Pino said. “That is very important for the Latino population, but it is not the only issue they care about.”

Many Latinos do still support comprehensive immigration reform, however, many of the concerns of Latinos in Iowa are essentially the same as other Iowans. Typical hotly debated topics such

as access to better jobs, affordable health care and access to higher education are also deciding factors for Latino voters.

In the opinion of Boyles, the media often skews issues related to Latinos, and they twist stories by using certain statistics that portray issues inaccurately.

“What is going to generate more buzz, immigrants are great? Or they’re destroying the country?” he said.

Diaz agrees that the media isn’t fair when it comes to Latino issues.

“The media doesn’t focus on real issues, just what certain politicians are saying,” Diaz said.

And some politicians are saying things that ostracize millions of Latinos in the United States.

TRUMP’S SUPPORT SHOWS PROGRESS STILL NEEDED

It’s no secret that Donald Trump has received a large amount of media attention ever since he made his racist remarks about Mexicans when announcing he was running for president. While Trump’s comments have been met with cheers by some voters, they have been met with disdain from many Latino voters. Pino has talked with many members in Latino communities about Trump.

“Many of the folks that I have talked to feel an anger and disappointment of how he is portraying an entire population of people,” Pino said.

Rob Barron, co-founder of the Latino Political Network in Iowa, said Trump is just playing the media.

“He’s trying to push down a group of people to make himself look better; he’s doing it so he gets more free media,” Barron said. Trump’s comments have angered some Latinos into taking greater action

than before.

Aguilar-Lopez said that his parents and other Latinos he has talked to have become more politically conscious since Trump’s infamous speech.

LACK OF REPRESENTATION FOR LATINOS

The Latino Political Network attempts to get more Latinos to hold official positions to advocate for and inspire other Latinos to become more politically active.

“Only about 10 or 12 positions out of 7,500 in the state of Iowa are held by Latinos,” Barron said. The 7,500 figure includes town government, county government and school board positions among others. Twelve out of 7,500 is less than one percent, while five percent of the Iowa population is Latino.

Barron said it is a positive thing for Latinos to hold these positions because it is much easier for representatives to advocate the interests of a certain group if they have the same background as them. Although, he added it is not 100 percent necessary.

“For me, the best quality for any elected official is humility,” Barron said. He said that as long as a politician stays humble and listens to his or her constituents, he or she could be a good representative for anyone.

For Diaz, politicians specifically are not always needed, but rather sometimes it is better for people to form groups on their own in order to advocate their own rights.

Aguilar-Lopez points out that organizations formed by regular people can give a voice to people who face barriers making themselves heard. For example, he said that many organizations advocate for undocumented immigrants who fear legal repercussions if they try to speak out.

The promises of a president

By: Lissandra Villa

On a crisp, fall night in downtown Des Moines, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took the stage to address a room filled with more than 6,600 people.

The atmosphere of the room resembled a concert- glow sticks were waving, lights were flashing and even pop stars were present. Just the year before, nearly everyone that attended the Jefferson-Jackson dinner was seated at a table and fed dinner.

But with only months separating Clinton and her fellow Democratic presidential candidates from the Iowa caucus, the event required bleachers to seat the fans of Clinton, former Gov. of Maryland Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"We will overturn Citizens United once and for all," Clinton told the cheering crowd, just one of the promises she made to those listening.

By no means is Clinton the only candidate to have campaigned on a promise as big as this, and by no means is this phenomenon exclusive to the Democrats.

On the Republican side, promises that parallel this one in size also run rampant.

For example, news outlets reported Donald Trump starting his campaign with ideas that included building a wall between America and Mexico and letting Mexico pick up the tab.

The problem is that there can be a disconnect between the promises made while on the campaign trail and the understanding voters have of the realities of holding office.

Kate Kenski is an associate professor of communication, public

opinion and research methods at the University of Arizona's Department of Communication. Prior to teaching there, she was a senior analyst at the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kenski said that what happens is that sometimes voters may expect the president to do more than he or she has the potential of doing based on the limitations of the office. A lot of people underestimate the constraints that any president, regardless of party, is going to face.

But at this point in the race, candidates may just be brainstorming out loud instead of making concrete promises.

"Maybe at this point the candidates haven't made as many promises [so much] as they've floated ideas," Kenski said. "Right now, they're floating ideas."

In terms of Trump's comments on immigration, Kenski applied that same line of thought.

But regardless of whether a candidate is making a promise he or she can hope to keep, the message still matters.

"Messages are important for mobilizing voters," Kenski said.

While the candidates may finally find themselves officially in an election year, at this point in the election, experts said it is too early to expect that a candidate's rhetoric will stay consistent after he or she becomes their party's nominee.

Kenski said that in the early phases of the race through the beginnings of the primary, the media is the most important and most influential factor. If the media decides to focus consistently

on a certain candidate, in the voters' minds those are the candidates that stand a chance.

So one of the things the candidates do to get media attention is to send out hyperbolic messages, she added.

"You're talking to your base," said Bruce Hardy, an assistant professor at the Department of Strategic Communication at Temple University. "You're not worried about the independent voters."

This is the point where the public can only focus on whatever the media focuses on.

"The public attention span is fractured between all these different voices," Kenski said, meaning that the electorate relies on the information—often those extreme campaign messages—picked up by the press.

But once a candidate moves on to the general election, the game changes.

"Everything that they say right now is not going to transfer over to the general election," Hardy said.

Hardy said a much more mainstream approach is generally taken by candidates

the further on they move in the game.

"Think of politics as a city with a main street," Hardy said.

Picture then a McDonald's and a Burger King next to each other. When they are lined up side by side, a customer can choose his or her preference without having to go all the way across town. If the two restaurants were farther apart, they would only appeal to people already near them.

That is how candidates line up as Election Day draws nearer, especially as they try to appeal to people beyond their core, and that's also when rhetoric continues to have heavy play.

Two candidates may have the same position on an issue (for example, President Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain on supporting stem cell research), but the campaign advertising may not reflect that, Hardy said.

Advertising typically has the strongest effects on those immersed in the issues. In terms of being persuasive, advertising is probably most effective on people who vote because of their sense of duty but who are not

politically knowledgeable, Kenski said.

"To them the kinds of messages they get right before they get into the voting booth is really important," Kenski said.

What does the power of rhetoric sometimes mean for some voters?

"A large significant number of people are duped," Hardy said. "It's an ongoing cycle of promises."

Hardy said that even fact-checking is only useful to a point: People hear the facts, but then they go back to remembering the original message they heard.

On the other hand, Kenski said once elected, presidents usually do try to fulfill the promises they make to the electorate. But due to the limitations of the office, some may not be as aggressively fulfilled in comparison to others.

***"Maybe at this point the candidates haven't made as many promises [so much] as they've floated ideas," Kenski said.
"Right now, they're floating ideas."***

